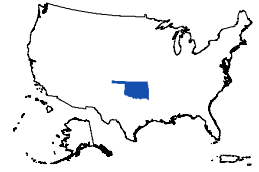


2000 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



Oklahoma Summary

Overview

Oklahoma agriculture producers interest in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) for FY 2000 significantly exceeded our allocation. Over 2,900 landowners applied for funding, which totaled over \$8 million. NRCS assisted landowners to develop approximately 600 conservation contracts, which obligated nearly \$3.6 million of federal cost-share assistance. These contracts assist agriculture producers by providing technical, financial, and educational assistance to deal with natural resource problems ranging from soil erosion on cropland, to water quality in streams and water supply lakes, to the invasion of brush and other undesirable plants on our prairies. Oklahoma funded natural resource concerns in 30 locally led priority areas for FY 2000. Twelve priority areas requesting over \$8 million in assistance were not approved for FY 2000 because of limited funding of the EQIP.

Accomplishments

FY 2000 was an active year for EQIP in Oklahoma. There were a number of landowners who applied practices through the program. These practices provided opportunity to improve water quality for communities and wildlife, protect streams and lakes from sedimentation, preserve the productivity of our nations cropland by reducing soil erosion, and provided critical habitat to targeted wildlife species.

Customer Focus—Joe Bottoms, LeFlore County, Oklahoma

Joe Bottoms has two poultry houses and a cow/calf operation. He applied for assistance through the EQIP to develop a better management system for his chicken litter and pasture. Through EQIP, he built a litter storage building which allows him to store his litter and apply it when weather conditions are right and when nutrients are needed for the pasture. "This helps me to better manage the animal waste and that helps protect the water quality on my farm," says Bottoms. He also received technical and financial help with construction of a pond and seeding pastures to fescue and clover. "The big thing about EQIP for me was that it has provided me with help with several practices in one year. I didn't have to wait several years to get it done," adds Bottoms. "Now using these improvements I can concentrate on management practices."

Outlook

Oklahoma has a diverse natural resource base and is a leader in agriculture production. Sustaining the natural resource base is directly correlated to future the productivity of our Nation. Oklahoma's farmers and ranchers have a strong conservation ethic, but need the technical, financial, and educational assistance provided through EQIP to accomplish the conservation needs of the land. Through EQIP's locally led flexibility, priorities have been placed on assisting poultry and swine producers in implementing animal waste management systems that protect our water quality. We have designed management systems that are restoring our prairies for livestock and wildlife habitat. Also, soil erosion and soil quality needs on over 6 million acres of non-highly erodible land not addressed by the Food Security Act of 1985 can be treated with conservation measures through EQIP.

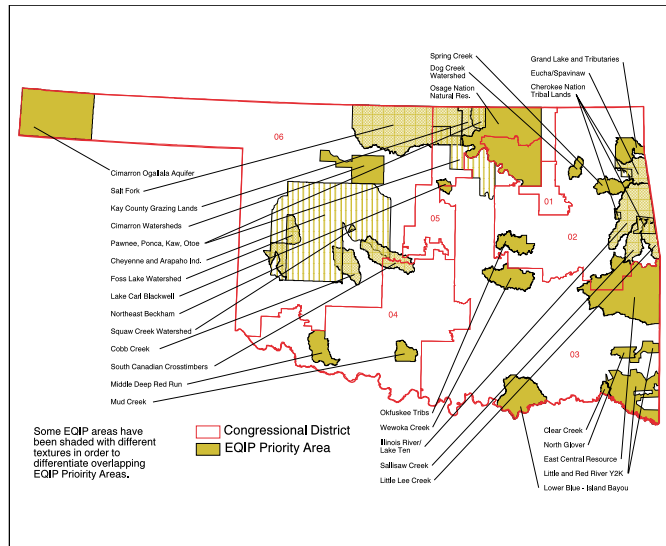
State Contact

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*Joe Bottoms, Le Flora County,
Oklahoma*



Oklahoma EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional Districts



Oklahoma EQIP Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District

Congressional Districts	Fiscal Year 2000		Cumulative Total (97-00)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 0	\$622,191	162	\$2,866,305	673
District 2	888,610	121	2,640,550	396
District 3	479,831	85	2,236,448	508
District 4	88,632	5	1,113,345	179
District 5	270,900	13	1,843,017	185
District 6	1,107,693	208	4,911,517	1,122
State Totals	\$3,457,857	594	\$15,611,182	3,063

Note: EQIP contracts for each Congressional District are estimated from Conservation Priority Areas which may include more than one district.

Congressional District 0 = EQIP Contracts for Statewide Natural Resource Concerns which can be in any Congressional District in the state.

Source: FSA Recordset type01, data through 4th quarter FY2000

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